



# Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



**Thursday, February 26, 2004**

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Indicates new information

## Superintendent

Colin's schedule:

Thurs., 2/26      – In the Park  
Friday, 2/27      – In the Park



Word was received that Jock's father has passed away. The senior Mr. Whitworth died the evening of February 21<sup>st</sup> in Cottonwood, AZ. Condolences can be sent to Jock and family at his old local address or to Jock at Zion NP. A sympathy card from employees is available for you to sign if you would like. See Marilyn.

## *Safety Notes--*

This may be of interest. It contains information on safe driving at night. Submitted by Darrell

### Driving at Night

Driving at night is more dangerous than during the day. Here's how to play it safe.

by Peter D. duPre

Although we do most of our driving during daylight hours, the Department Of Transportation says that 57 percent of all traffic fatalities happen at night. Reduced visibility, people driving under the influence or too fast for conditions, poor weather, failure to stay alert, and unsafe vehicles all contribute to the higher nighttime death toll.



E-mail to  
a Friend



Fifty-seven percent of all traffic fatalities happen at night. Take steps to minimize your risk.

vehicle and driving carefully. Here are a few precautions you can take to increase your nighttime safety quotient:

- **Clean the windows.** Fogged windows, road film and fingerprints decrease visibility. Clean the exterior glass every time you fill up and do the interior surfaces once a week or whenever they look filmy or smudgy. Fill the washer reservoir full of windshield cleaner and replace worn wiper blades.
- **Have headlights lights aligned.** Have the headlights aligned to provide maximum visibility. Keep a bottle of window cleaner and a roll of paper towels in the vehicle to clean both headlights and taillights whenever you fill up. Also, make sure that turn signals, parking lights, license plate lights and taillights are clean and working.
- **Improve the lighting.** While all new vehicles come equipped with ultra-bright halogen lights, many older vehicles may not have these brighter lamps. Replace the traditional lights with halogen or the newer, blue HID (High Intensity Discharge) bulbs to improve visibility. You might also add a set of fog/driving lights for better low beam visibility during inclement weather.
- **Be more visible.** A clean car reflects light better than a dirty one and looks nicer, too. So, wash up. Stick reflective tape to the bumpers and side moldings to help others see you better.
- **Add a brake light.** A third brake light can reduce the chances of being rear-ended by as much as 30 percent. Owners of older vehicles without a high-mounted, center rear brake light should have one installed.
- **Breakdown safety.** Turn on the emergency flashers when you pull over and before attempting any outside repairs, such as fixing a flat. Put on a pair of white coveralls with reflective patches sewn into the fabric. Use traffic flares and a safety reflector to alert others to your presence on the side of the road.
- **Stay alert.** Don't drive when tired or sleepy. A fatigued driver has reduced reaction time and has an increased chance of falling asleep. Make sure you are alert and awake. Keep the heat and the stereo down low. High heat makes you drowsy and loud music distracts your attention from the traffic, limiting your ability to hear horns and sirens.
- **Drive sober.** Drunk drivers are a major cause of nighttime traffic fatalities. Never, ever drink and drive. If you have had even one drink, wait an hour or more before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle. If you've had more than two drinks, call a cab and if you spot a drunk driver, call the police.
- **Slow down.** Darkness reduces overall visibility and your ability to properly judge distance. Decrease speed from the posted limit by 5 mph and increase your following distance.
- **Drive defensively.** Always give yourself an out. This means that no matter what the traffic conditions, you have enough space to avoid trouble by either stopping in time or by having the room to go around. Keep an eye out for pedestrians, stray animals, cars without lights, bicyclists, drunks and other road hazards. Stay clear of vehicles that are drifting or swerving and never attempt to pass a vehicle that is obviously not under full control.

*Peter duPre has been writing about cars and car care for over 30 years. He has authored automotive technical manuals and been published in numerous automotive magazines.*

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*Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.*

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

## Employees Association News

How about a nice outing to the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio to see NUNSENSE? This play is celebrating 20 years of making the world laugh. It features, Kaye Ballard, Georgia Engle, Mimi Hines, Darlene Love and Lee Meriwether.

This is through Rockport Tours; we travel in an air conditioned bus with a bathroom. We will stop for a "wonderful" dinner after our matinee show. The date is APRIL 10 and it is \$109, all inclusive – transportation, ticket and dinner. It is loads of fun, they even play movies for us. We will make a pit stop on the trip up and back. It is worth it just to see the Majestic Theatre. PLEASE make your own arrangements directly through Rockport tours at 937-3488. Please mention you are with the Padre Island National Seashore group so they can seat us together. Don't wait too long, as these fill up quickly. Website: [www.rockporttours.com](http://www.rockporttours.com).

## Administration

The below broadcast will be available to all sites (no site or participant registration is required). Because this is a taped show, there will be no interaction. It will be just a sit back and watch program!

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In celebration of Black History Month, NPS and FWS will sponsor a performance and satellite broadcast by Shelton Johnson, Park Interpreter, Yosemite National Park.

Mr. Johnson will give a first-person presentation on the history of the U.S. Army Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierras in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The live performance at the National Conservation Training Center on Feb. 25 will be videotaped and broadcast via satellite to all NPS & FWS downlink sites on:

**Friday, February 27, 2004, 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST**

Shelton Johnson's portrayal of the Buffalo Soldier of the Sierras has captivated audiences around the country. Shelton will be in Washington, DC, this month to speak to staff of the Department of the Interior and the Congressional Black Caucus. The NPS Harper's Ferry Center has invited him to share with us this experience in interpretive excellence, and to inform us about this lesser known chapter of American history.

For more information, please refer to the attached file.



Buffalo\_SS\_Announce.pdf

If you would like to donate leave to Chon, please complete a leave share donation form and turn it in to Jeanie. If you cannot locate a form, contact Jeanie.

### **TEL Courses**

Description of courses can be found at [www.telnp.net](http://www.telnp.net)

#### **Feb 26      Module 270 - Curriculum-based Education Programs**

- Mar 3      Interview Skills for Supervisors: finding the best match
- Mar 3      Leave Administration
- Mar 22      Retirement Planning for new employees
- Mar 24      Position descriptions - what every supervisor should know
- Mar 24      Managing Performance
  
- Apr 1      Communication: The Key to Performance Management
- Apr 1      From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story behind Sexual Harassment
- Apr 26      NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs

**The trailer will be used for TEL training on Mar 3, Mar 22, Mar 24, Apr 1.**

### **Facility Management**

We made \$562.00 from the silent auction for Chon. Thanks to everyone who brought items in for the sale and to everyone bidding for these items. Everyone had a lot of fun.

Date of our next fund raiser – the BBQ lunch – has been changed from Friday, March 5, to Thursday, March 4. Please see sign up sheets for the BBQ benefit luncheon for Chon. We need a head count so that there will be enough food.

Sign up sheet will be posted in Maintenance, HQ lunchroom, one at the Entrance Station and one at the Visitor Center.

Coming-up list of fund raiser events to benefit Chon:

March 4	All You Can Eat BBQ plate lunch for \$10 per person
March 19	Raffle. Information to follow
April 2	Cakewalk. Information to follow.

Thanks, folks, for all your consideration and help.

## Interpretation

} Volunteer Mike Smith suffered a heart attack last Monday afternoon while he and Elaine were in town after work. He was taken to Bay Area Hospital and as of Wednesday, was still in the Intensive Care Unit. We will give you updates on his condition as soon as we know.

On Saturday 5 people from Sunny Beaches picked up 73 bags of trash. On Sunday 15 people picked up 171 bags of trash. Channel 3 also came out to interview the Sunny Beaches crew.

**On March 13, the park will host the National Parks America clean-up, sponsored by Unilever, Wal-Mart, and the National Parks Foundation. Please note that they are planning for about 300 people and therefore we should expect it to be about the same size as the Spring Adopt-a-beach clean-up.**

## Protection

The next Pack Test will be given on March 1st. Plan on attending. Make sure you are preparing yourself for the test. Bring a 45 pound

pack and be at Headquarters at 7:30 am for the pack weigh-in. After that we will go to BIB to the usual location.

## **Resources Management**

### **Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery**

Training of volunteers that will participate in our turtle patrols will be held on March 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, and 20. We have volunteer vacancies with the program and welcome newcomers, *but the vacant spots are filling quickly!* People interested in volunteering with the turtle patrol program should contact Cynthia by phone or e-mail so that they can sign up for the required one-day-long training session.

Week of February 22: Donna and Cynthia are in Costa Rica attending the 24th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Rachael is Acting Chief, Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery during our absence.

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